

**Nurses Task Force (NTF) Conference Call Meeting**  
**June 5, 2008**  
**ODE – Room 200A & 503-378-3003 #9676**  
**10:00 am – 12:00 pm**

**PARTICIPANTS:** Nina Fekaris, Dr. Karen Fischer-Gray, Margay Garrity, Jan Hootman, Marilyn Hudson, Rep. Tina Kotek, Dr. James Lace, Nellie McAdams & Laurie Wimmer-Whelan

**ODE PRESENT:** Leslie Currin, Brad Victor & Bobbi King

**ALSO PARTICIPATING:** Tammis Alexander, Liz Currey-Smith, & Kellogg Foundation Representative

**Welcome & Introductions:** The meeting was opened at 10:00 am by Brad Victor, Facilitator. All NTF members and ODE staff called into phone number 503-378-3003 #9676. The Task Force members introduced themselves. Brad asked for announcements and/or revisions to the agenda.

**Announcements:**

- Rep. Kotek introduced Tammis Alexander who will be the the author of the NurseTask Force Report document. Rep. Kotek explained that part of the fee (\$1,000.) for Tammy’s work has been contributed as a grant from the Oregon Education Association. Rep. Kotek continues to seek funds from other grantors for the remainder of the fee.
- Ms. Alexander has experience working with Oregon Children First, and Oregon School-Based Health Centers. She is a health educator who has worked with the Oregon Health Division, as well as at state and national levels on issues involving school health .Her work includes interface with Governor Kulingoski’s office; she is currently the Chair of the Oregon School-Based Health Center Network.

**Discussion of Content of Report:**

**The group reviewed the HANDOUT:** *“Rough Draft – Ideas for School Nurse Task Force Document Background/Scope of the Problem Section”*, distributed earlier in the week by Co-Chairperson Fekaris.

- Co-Chair Hootman requested information from Tammy regarding the details that Tammy will need, in order to generate the report by July,
- Tammy outlined a schedule for this document that includes a start on the outline by June 16, 2008. For this outline, Tammy will need as much detail as possible regarding the school nurse situation as it now exists. Bobbi King agrees to forward the NTF background documents to Tammy, to assist in this task.
- The group will review Tammy’s report at a future meeting. The NTF members reiterated their intention to have valid and useful data contained in the report.

- Dr. Lace suggested the addition of the average salary for a school nurse. Also suggested was the addition of information regarding the “typical” school nurse, including the average number of students/schools that they serve.
- The group discussed the nature of the school nurse’s work, including the difficult tasks, emergencies and chronic conditions/illnesses that school nurses must deal with. Some of these tasks are being done by school staff now, in districts where there are insufficient school nurse services. Health conditions such as diabetes, seizure disorders, asthma, orthopedic problems, emotional/mental disorders, students on feeding protocols, and medically fragile children, impact schools and school nurses every day.
- Dr. Lace pointed out recent figures that show 160 out of every 300 students to be either overweight or obese, which creates a concern for their health now and in their future.
- Hearing impairment is present in 2 out of every 1000 students, and about 16% of students in Oregon do not have health insurance.

It is Dr. Lace’s opinion that the document should contain a description of what the school nurse does, as this is not generally well known by the audience being addressed.

- Jan Hootman suggested that there be some story scenarios about emergent status in the schools, as well as some that describe how a procedure is carried out.

The addition of mental health needs, and pervasive personality disorder needs was suggested.

- There was a suggestion to add a ‘typical classroom’ section. Data from Dr. Fishcer Grey’s surveys could be used to create this. This section would postulate a theoretical classroom of 30 students, and describe the health problems within that group of 30 students.
- Rep. Kotek suggested a format that includes examples of positive results of the presence of a school nurse, and some negative results of lack of a school nurse. She further expresses the opinion that assigning blame is not desirable. The group solicited input from Leslie, including an approximate amount of training time per year for a school staff person who performs a delegated task of nursing. Leslie estimates this time amount at about 6-8 hours per year.
- Marilyn Hudson suggested that the OAR’s that show requirements for school nurses be referenced in the document.
- Rep. Kotek requested that information regarding the educational process, specifically the nurse involvement in IEP’s, be shared with Tammi. Further, Rep. Kotek states that the report should reflect the time factor, as it pertains to the performance of medical tasks by school staff, and how this may decrease the time available for the educational process. Responsibility for trainings, etc., should be included in the document.

The group was asked to forward all information to Nina by the June 10, 2008.

- Nina Fekaris will formulate a rough draft of the report timelines, etc by June 13, 2008.

- Bobbi agrees to act as information conduit between the Task Force members and Tammi.
- **Timeline:** A Preliminary Draft of the document will be sent out by email by July 18, 2007.

The next NTF meeting will occur on July 31, 2008 from 9:00 am – 1:00 pm. in Room 200A, Public Service Building. During this meeting, decisions re a presentation panel for the upcoming Legislative session will be made.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 pm.